

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/693,230

Examiner

Wilson Lee

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/23/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

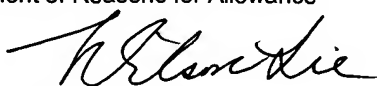
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 10/23/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2821

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1-16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art neither discloses nor suggests the following limitations in combination with the remaining elements disclosed in claims 1 and 9:

- a booster/driver circuit with supplies the switching element of the booster/chopper circuit with a driving signal having a frequency of 10 to 200 KHz thereby limiting a peak loss of the switching element to 200 W or less such as required by claim 1;
- a booster/driver circuit which supplies the switching element with a signal such that a time required for a switching loss waveform of the switching element to rise or fall falls within a range of 1 nsec to 1 μ sec, a peak loss of the switching element being limited to 200 W or less such as required by claim 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Manor et al. (6,097,158) discloses an illumination system comprising a chopper, a step-down transformer, in which the power loss across the

Art Unit: 2821

rectifier diode would amount to 17.50W but fails to disclose limiting a peak loss of a switching element to 200 W or less. Deng et al. (6,008,589) discloses a single-switch, high power factor, AC-to-AC power converter comprising a boost converter, a transformer in which the power level across the load is below 100 W but fails to disclose the driving signal having a frequency of 10 to 200 KHz. Adamson (5,933,340) discloses a frequency controller in which the starting voltage for the lamps is predetermined to be a frequency of 100 KHZ but fails to disclose limiting a peak loss of a switching element to 200 W or less. Wood (5,291,100) discloses a low watt metal halide lamp apparatus having an operating frequency of 30 to 50 KHz but fails to disclose limiting a peak loss of a switching element to 200 W or less. Hu et al. (5,055,746) discloses a 28 Watt fluorescent lamp energized by a boost converter at an operating frequency of 20-50 KHz but fails to disclose limiting a peak loss of a switching element to 200 W or less.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Art Unit: 2821

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

11/29/04